

SPECIAL MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
November 6, 2008

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the special meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Audrey P Beck Building

I. ROLL CALL

- Present: Blair, Clouette, Duffy, Haddad, Koehn, Nesbitt, Paterson, Paulhus, Schaefer

II. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Budget Workshop

Town Manager Matt Hart opened the workshop commenting that the changing financial situation presents a challenge for the upcoming budget cycle. He noted the goal of the workshop is to present some scenarios based on the current situation, review some potential approaches and seek guidance from the Council.

Comptroller Cherie Trahan reviewed hypothetical tax warrant calculations and expenditure budgets and possible scenarios with the Council. Ms. Trahan also discussed the capital and nonrecurring reserve fund budgets and possible projections for the upcoming years.

To assist with the development of policy and priorities for the upcoming budget the Town Manager posed the following questions to Council members:

What, if any mil rate would you be willing to support?

What functional areas of government do you support reductions in?

What programs would you support cutting?

Do you support prorated reductions between the Boards of Education and the Town?

Council members discussed approaches to the 2009/10 Budget and asked staff to provide information on the unemployment rate, the number of foreclosures, and the general economic situation of Mansfield citizens. By consensus all members agreed to email their suggestions and opinions on the questions outlined above to the Town Manager within ten days. Another workshop will be scheduled for December. In addition to the information requested from staff, results from the questions will be compiled and distributed at the workshop. The Town Manager will also provide information from department heads on prioritization of projects and possible regional opportunities.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC

- Rick Hassock, Middle Turnpike, asked the Council not to increase his taxes and suggested an across the board 10% pay cut for town employees. He also questioned the use of executive sessions.

David Freudmann, Eastwood Road, asked the Council to ask departments to look

for ways to cut but told them not to be afraid to look at specific line items. He also urged them to look at the cost per student at the schools.

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, expressed her thoughts on the budget process and urged the Council to make the Town Manager identify the necessary cuts.

- Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded a motion to move into Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Strategy and Negotiations with Respect to Collective Bargaining
Present: Blair, Clouette, Duffy, Haddad, Koehn, Nesbitt, Paterson, Paulhus, Schaefer
Also included: Town Manager Matt Hart, Assistant to the Town Manager Maria Capriola and Director of Finance Jeff Smith

Strategy and Negotiations with Respect to Storrs Center Development
Present: Blair, Clouette, Duffy, Haddad, Koehn, Nesbitt, Paterson, Paulhus, Schaefer
Also included: Town Manager Matt Hart and Director of Finance Jeff Smith

V. ADJOURNMENT

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- Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Blair seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk.